



PLACER COUNTY
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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2003 5:00 AM
DATE/TIME OF OCCURRENCE: SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2003 9:10 PM
NATURE OF CALL: RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY/STOLEN VEHICLE
LOCATION OF CALL: SUNNYSIDE AREA
CASE NUMBER: SO03-13404
RELEASED BY: W. WALTON, SERGEANT

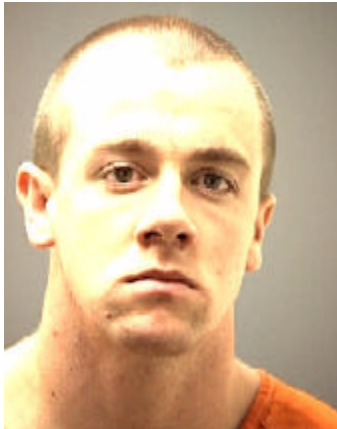
SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

On September 3rd, 2003 the Placer County Sheriff's Department was called to assist the California Highway Patrol with locating two suspects who had fled on foot. The CHP received information from Nevada that the suspect vehicle was reckless driving on I80. A CHP Officer located the vehicle traveling southbound on SR89 just north of Sunnyside. While the Officer turned, the older Ford truck sped away, traveling west onto Pine Ave. The truck turned onto Washoe Wy. and crashed, nearly striking an occupied house. The driver and passenger fled on foot. The truck had apparently been reported stolen in Reno, Nevada earlier in the evening but had not been entered into the system.

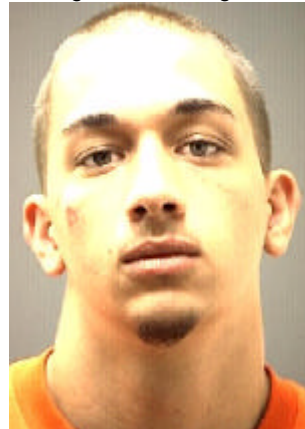
The Placer County Sheriff's Department received a 911 call from a residence on Pine Ave., near the crash a few minutes later. The resident reported that a male subject, later identified as Robert Benzie, a 19 year old male from Reno, Nevada and wearing only pants had kicked his door in and was standing in his living room. He yelled at Benzie to leave and he did. Benzie was heard speaking with another person near the residence.

There were several vehicles tampered with in the area and it appeared that the suspects were trying to steal a car. They continued running until a resident of the area heard the ruckus, spotted and tackled Benzie near Washoe Wy. and Fountain Ave. The other suspect continued to run.

Placer County Sheriff's Deputies set a perimeter on Balsam Ln. near Twin Peaks Dr. when they heard a commotion in the area. They discovered that a residence on Balsam Ln. had a broken window and torn screen. The deputies contained the residence. A deputy with his canine was tracking the suspect to the house when the suspect was seen running. That suspect, Jesse Bates, a 19 year old male from Reno, Nevada was arrested without incident. He was booked for first degree burglary, among other charges by the CHP. Benzie was booked for trespassing and other charges by the CHP. The CHP booked both suspects for vehicle theft and resisting or obstructing an officer.



ROBERT BENZIE



JESSE BATES

Copies of this press release are available on the Placer County Sheriff's Department website @
PLACER.CA.GOV/SHERIFF.